State	No. of Gram Panchayats where Telephone facility not extended
Mizoram	184
Nagaland	595
Tripura	363
Total	2196

(f) The Telephone facilities in all the Villages are to be given by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan.

Vacant posts of CPMG and PMG in North-East States

2943. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICTIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Chief Post Master General and Post Master General of North-East Circle has been kept vacant;

(b) whether the post of Director Postal Service, Manipur has not been filled up regularly for more than four years despite assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister;

(c) what is the number of posts for Director Postal Services now lying vacant in the North-East States, State-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not filling up the vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No Sir. The posts of Chief Postmaster and Postmaster General in the North East Circle stand filled up.

(b) The post of Director Postal Services Manipur has been filled up by a regular incumbent since Oct. 1997.

(c) Four posts of Director Postal Services are lying vacant in the North-Eastern States — on each in Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Mizoram and Dibrugarh.

(d) There is an overall shortage of offices at the level of Director Postal Services due to non-availability of eligible officers for posting.

Abrupt disconnections of STD facilities in Andhra Pradesh

2944. SHRI YERRA NARAYANSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations has been received by the Andhra Pradesh Telecom on the sudden disconnections of STD facilities for public STD booth in Tadepalligudem and other town of West Godaveri in the month of June, 1998;

(b) the reasons for the abrupt disconnections of STD facilities;

(c) whether it is a fact that arbitrary actions are leading to public discomfort;

(d) whether any effort has been made by the Management to discuss with booth-operators the problems involved; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The field officers in Tadepalligudem, during periodical checks, detected six PCOs which were showing irregular pulse rates and the booth operators were instructed to correct those. For correcting the same these STD PCOs were disconnected on 14.6.98 and restored on 15.6.98. The total duration of disconnections was less than 24 hrs. There was no arbitrary action and the disconnections was aimed at providing better service to the public at correct rates.

(d) Yes, Sir. Every effort is being taken to sort out the problems by discussing with Booth operators.

(e) Does not arise.